ARTESIA, CA - Today, Congresswoman Sánchez inaugurated a new drop off lane at the Artesia Post Office after helping secure \$80,000 in federal money for the post office improvements. Joining Congresswoman Sánchez at the ribbon cutting ceremony were Artesia Mayor Larry Nelson and Richard Maher from the United States Postal Service.

"It is really amazing how such a small improvement can make a huge difference in the safety and efficiency of the post office for its patrons," said Congresswoman Sánchez.

In May 2003, officials from the City of Artesia expressed their concern regarding the traffic and circulation problems in the Artesia Post Office parking lot. The existing parking lot layout had resulted in congestion, a number of traffic violations, and resident complaints. Working together with the USPS and the City of Artesia, Congresswoman Sánchez was able to help secure a commitment for \$80,000 from the Postal Service to create a mail drop off lane to alleviate congestion and increase efficiency.

The drop off lane was cut into the sidewalk on Alburtis Street to allow cars to easily gain access to drop off mailboxes from the street without entering the post office parking lot or creating congestion on Alburtis Street.

"I am pleased to have helped facilitate a solution to this issue at the Artesia Post Office. I want to thank Artesia Mayor Larry Nelson, the City of Artesia and the U.S. Postal Service for all of their combined efforts to bring this project to fruition," said Sánchez.